

TITLE 89: SOCIAL SERVICES  
CHAPTER IV: DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
SUBCHAPTER a: GENERAL PROGRAM PROVISIONS

PART 50  
CHILD CARE

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127 AUTHORITY: Implementing Articles I through IXA and authorized by Section 12-13 of the  
 128 Illinois Public Aid Code [305 ILCS 5].

129

SOURCE: Emergency rules adopted at 21 Ill. Reg. 9502, effective July 1, 1997, for a maximum of 150 days; adopted at 21 Ill. Reg. 14961, effective November 10, 1997; emergency amendment at 22 Ill. Reg. 12816, effective July 1, 1998, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 22 Ill. Reg. 21037, effective November 27, 1998; emergency amendment at 23 Ill. Reg. 10875, effective August 20, 1999, for maximum of 150 days; amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 1058, effective January 10, 2000; emergency amendment at 24 Ill. Reg. 6604, effective April 5, 2000, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 13987, effective September 1, 2000; amended at 24 Ill. Reg. 15423, effective October 10, 2000; emergency amendment at 25 Ill. Reg. 2735, effective February 5, 2001, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 25 Ill. Reg. 8176, effective June 23, 2001; emergency amendment at 25 Ill. Reg. 8443, effective July 1, 2001, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 25 Ill. Reg. 14854, effective October 31, 2001; emergency amendment at 25 Ill. Reg. 16116, effective December 1, 2001, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 26 Ill. Reg. 7113, effective April 25, 2002; amended at 27 Ill. Reg. 12090, effective July 14, 2003; amended at 27 Ill. Reg. 18411, effective November 24, 2003; amended at 28 Ill. Reg. 6895, effective April 23, 2004; emergency amendment at 28 Ill. Reg. 10121, effective July 1, 2004, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired November 27, 2004; amended at 29 Ill. Reg. 2687, effective February 4, 2005; emergency amendment at 29 Ill. Reg. 13253, effective August 11, 2005, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired January 7, 2006; amended at 30 Ill. Reg. 11190, effective June 6, 2006; amended at 31 Ill. Reg. 12584, effective August 20, 2007; emergency amendment at 31 Ill. Reg. 13350, effective September 10, 2007, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired February 6, 2008; amended at 32 Ill. Reg. 6048, effective March 31, 2008; emergency amendment at 32 Ill. Reg. 6652, effective April 1, 2008, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 32 Ill. Reg. 9604, effective June 20, 2008; amended at 32 Ill. Reg. 14742, effective August 28, 2008; amended at 33 Ill. Reg. 8195, effective June 8, 2009; emergency amendment at 33 Ill. Reg. 15889, effective November 1, 2009, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency amendment at 33 Ill. Reg. 16517, effective November 1, 2009, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired March 30, 2010; amended at 34 Ill. Reg. 5275, effective March 29, 2010; emergency amendment at 34 Ill. Reg. 8619, effective June 16, 2010, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired on November 12, 2010; amended at 34 Ill. Reg. 10512, effective July 8, 2010; amended at 34 Ill. Reg. 19539, effective December 6, 2010; amendment at 35 Ill. Reg. 1397, effective January 6, 2011; amended at 35 Ill. Reg. 3993, effective February 25, 2011; emergency amendment at 35 Ill. Reg. 6583, effective April 1, 2011, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired August 28, 2011; amended at 35 Ill. Reg. 8878, effective May 25, 2011; amended at 36 Ill. Reg. 1564, effective January 17, 2012; amended at 36 Ill. Reg. 12104, effective July 10, 2012; amended at 36 Ill. Reg. 14513, effective September 12, 2012; amended at 36 Ill. Reg. 16085, effective October 29, 2012; amended at 38 Ill. Reg. 18490, effective August 22, 2014; amended at 38 Ill. Reg. 19513, effective September 17, 2014; emergency amendment at 39 Ill. Reg. 10072, effective July 1, 2015, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency rule modified in response to JCAR objection at 39 Ill. Reg. 15158, effective November 9, 2015, for the remainder of the 150 days; amended at 39 Ill. Reg. 15540, effective November 23, 2015; emergency amendment at 41 Ill. Reg. 12890, effective October 1, 2017, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 42 Ill. Reg. 3745, effective February 7, 2018; amended at 42 Ill. Reg. 8491, effective May 8, 2018; emergency amendment at 42 Ill. Reg. 13898, effective July 1, 2018, for a

maximum of 150 days; amended at 42 Ill. Reg. 22555, effective November 27, 2018; emergency amendment at 43 Ill. Reg. 7632, effective July 1, 2019, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 43 Ill. Reg. 11338, effective October 1, 2019; emergency amendment at 43 Ill. Reg. 14416, effective November 26, 2019, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 44 Ill. Reg. 6951, effective April 16, 2020; emergency amendment at 44 Ill. Reg. 6442, effective April 13, 2020, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency amendment to emergency rule at 44 Ill. Reg. 11187, effective June 18, 2020, for the remainder of the 150 days; emergency rule effective April 13, 2020, as amended June 18, 2020, expired September 9, 2020; emergency amendment at 44 Ill. Reg. 13789, effective August 7, 2020, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 44 Ill. Reg. 19874, effective December 14, 2020; emergency amendment at 45 Ill. Reg. 980, effective January 1, 2021, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired May 30, 2021; emergency amendment at 45 Ill. Reg. 4946, effective April 1, 2021, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 45 Ill. Reg. 11057, effective August 26, 2021; emergency amendment at 45 Ill. Reg. 9153, effective July 1, 2021, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency amendment at 45 Ill. Reg. 12872, effective October 1, 2021, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency amendment at 45 Ill. Reg. 13098, effective October 1, 2021, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 45 Ill. Reg. 15467, effective November 24, 2021; emergency amendment at 46 Ill. Reg. 1335, effective January 1, 2022, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 46 Ill. Reg. 4066, effective February 24, 2022; amended at 46 Ill. Reg. 4928, effective February 24, 2022; amended at 46 Ill. Reg. 7732, effective April 26, 2022; emergency amendment at 46 Ill. Reg. 12177, effective July 1, 2022, for a maximum of 150 days; emergency expired November 27, 2022; amended at 46 Ill. Reg. 15555, effective September 1, 2022; amended at 46 Ill. Reg. 20819, effective December 15, 2022; amended at 47 Ill. Reg. 110, effective December 20, 2022; emergency amendment at 47 Ill. Reg. 10648, effective July 1, 2023, for a maximum of 150 days; amended at 47 Ill. Reg. 11466, effective July 13, 2023; amended at 47 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective November 20, 2023; amended at 47 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_.

## SUBPART K: STRENGTHEN AND GROW CHILD CARE GRANTS PROGRAM

### Section 50.1100 Purpose

The purpose of the Smart Start Transition~~Strengthen and Grow Child Care~~ Grants Program (“Program”) is to provide child care programs with the stable funding needed to recruit and retain workers and to improve child care quality. These awards will provide additional support so that programs can make personnel and workforce investments beyond the reach of current operating budgets and shall be consistent with the requirements of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) (P.L. 117-2), the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act [30 ILCS 708], the Grant Funds Recovery Act [30 ILCS 705], the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR 200), and any other applicable federal and State laws pertaining to COVID-19-related programs. Awards will be disbursed subject to appropriation and the availability of grant funds.

(Source: Amended at 47 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 50.1110 Eligible Child Care Provider**

To qualify for a Smart Start Transition~~Strengthen and Grow Child Care~~ Grant, the applicant must meet all ~~five~~ of the following requirements:

- a) be a licensed child care provider holding a valid day care license from DCFS (see 89 Ill. Adm. Code 406, 407 or 408) as of June 1, 2023~~March 11, 2021~~ and ongoing;
- b) regularly provide year-round child care : operate full-day and full-year, defined as a program that is open and offering at least at least eight consecutive hours of care per day, five days per week for at least 47 weeks per year~~services~~;
- c) have, for at least one month and time after December 31,2019, enrolled a number of children equal to or greater than 10% of its total licensed capacity subsidized through DHS' Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) (see 89 Ill. Adm. Code 50);
- d) typically rely on payments through Preschool for All, Prevention Initiative, Head Start, and/or Early Head Start for no more than 75% of its revenues;
- e) be open and receiving children at the time of application, not including temporary closures of no more than two weeks due to ~~the~~COVID-19: ~~pandemic~~.
- f) be current in the Registry Director portal; and
- g) have complete and accepted reporting for all previously-received federal relief child care grants, including, but not limited to, Child Care Restoration Grants, Child Care Workforce Bonus, and Strengthen and Grow Child Care Grants.

(Source: Amended at 47 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 50.1120 Calculation of Smart Start Transition~~Strengthen and Grow Child Care~~ Grant Award Amounts**

- a) Award amounts will be based on the following factors:
  - 1) The licensed capacity of the applicant, as indicated on its day care license, as of the date of application.
  - 2) For child care centers, the number of classrooms, as indicated on the program's application.

3) The Social Vulnerability Index [2020](#) score (see Section 50.1180) of the census tract in which the applicant is located at the time of application review.

b) Funding amounts are subject to change based on any change in available funding of the Program or federal regulation of the program and are subject to availability of a sufficient appropriation.

(Source: Amended at 47 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

### Section 50.1130 Eligible Expenses

a) Awards may be used to cover any operational cost that is not otherwise covered by a tax credit, grant, or refundable loan from any source (e.g., Paycheck Protection Program, Economic Disaster Injury Loan, other disaster relief, Head Start or Early Head Start, Early Childhood Block Grant, philanthropic grants) and must be eligible for reimbursement through the [Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act funding and/or the American Rescue Plan Act ~~Stabilization Grant~~ funding designated for child care](#). Federal guidance concerning eligible operational costs can be accessed at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/occ/CCDF-ACF-IM-2021-02.pdf>.

b) Examples of eligible operational costs include, but are not limited to: existing staff wages and benefits, occupancy costs, materials and supplies, and professional services.

c) Beneficiaries must spend ~~75~~<sup>50</sup>% of the total amount awarded on new or expanded investments related to personnel, which include but are not limited to: increases in compensation for any staff in a child care center or family child care home, inclusive of premium or hazard pay or ongoing/recurring staff bonuses; expansion of existing health, dental, and vision insurance, or purchase of new insurance for staff; new or expanded scholarships; new or expanded paid sick or family leave; new or expanded retirement contributions; new or expanded professional development or training; support for staff to access COVID-19 vaccines, including paid time off for vaccine appointments and to manage side effects, as well as transportation costs to vaccine appointments; recruiting and retaining existing and former child care workers and strengthening the diversity of the workforce to meet children's and families' needs, including recruitment and retention bonuses; new or expanded infant and early childhood mental health consultation; or new or expanded mental health consultations for staff and other types of mental health supports to staff.

(Source: Amended at 47 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)

**Section 50.1140 Application Requirements**

- a) Program~~Grant program~~ applicants shall provide an attestation certifying, at a minimum, that their child care meets all eligibility requirements.
- b) Program applicants and participants shall provide a budget, detailing a plan for spending their beneficiary payment and on which eligible expenses funds will be expended.
- c) A new grant application, attestation, and budget must be submitted quarterly, in advance of receipt of funds.

(Source: Amended at 47 Ill. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_)